

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0020

Land exchanges-priority.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands &
Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state lands; providing priority
2 considerations for land exchanges; requiring notice and
3 opportunity to comment before completing an exchange;
4 specifying applicability; and providing for an effective
5 date.

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7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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9 **Section 1.** W.S. 36-1-111(a)(intro) and by creating a
10 new subsection (b) is amended to read:

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12 **36-1-111. Orders, rules and regulations relative to**
13 **exchange of lands.**

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1 (a) The board of land commissioners is hereby
2 authorized and empowered to pass and promulgate all such
3 orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary or
4 required relative to the appraisal and valuation of the
5 lands to be exchanged as provided in this act, and to
6 provide for the execution of conveyances, contracts and
7 other instruments pertaining to the exchange of the lands,
8 and to enable the director to effect and complete each
9 exchange of the lands after the director provides notice
10 and opportunity to interested persons to provide the board
11 comments, including notice to leaseholders of the state
12 lands to be exchanged, owners of adjoining lands, county
13 commissioners and state legislators from the affected
14 county. The board may authorize the purchase of lands only
15 in an amount necessary to effect and complete the exchange
16 of state-owned lands for other lands and only for those
17 lands identified in the authorization of purchase. The
18 board shall not use the power of eminent domain pursuant to
19 W.S. 1-26-801 et seq. to purchase any lands under this
20 section. The board of land commissioners is authorized to
21 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the
22 exchange of state lands on a value for value basis. The
23 exchange program may authorize a cash equalization receipt

1 or payment of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the value
2 of the lands exchanged. Any receipt shall be deposited
3 into, and any payment shall be made from, the permanent
4 land fund. State lands may be exchanged upon the board's
5 finding the exchange is necessary to:

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7 (b) When deciding among more than one (1) possible
8 exchange of any state lands that have been determined to
9 meet one (1) or more of the criteria under paragraphs
10 (a)(i) through (iv) of this section, the board shall
11 consider implementing land value for value exchanges that
12 inure benefit for trust beneficiaries and accomplish as
13 many of the following as possible:

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15 (i) An exchange where the resulting state lands,
16 if the exchange is completed, are wholly within the same
17 county;

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19 (ii) An exchange that allows for increased
20 public access to state lands;

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22 (iii) An exchange that consolidates state
23 ownership to create contiguous state land parcels;

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(iv) An exchange that receives express support from any interested persons, including leaseholders of any state lands to be exchanged, owners of adjoining lands, county commissioners and state legislators from the affected county.

Section 2. This act shall apply to all state land exchanges pending on the effective date of this act and all state land exchanges after the effective date of this act.

Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)